

(ii) That there are no extenuating circumstances involved with the action(s) described in paragraph (g)(1)(i) of this section (as determined by the RA).

(2) *Less than substantial violation.* For the purposes of this subpart, a less than substantial violation is an action of commission or omission on the part of the employer or the employer's agent which violates a requirement of this subpart, but is not a substantial violation.

§ 655.111 Petition for higher meal charges.

(a) *Filing petitions.* Until a new amount is set pursuant to this paragraph (a), the RA may permit an employer to charge workers up to \$6.58 for providing them with three meals per day, if the employer justifies the charge and submits to the RA the documentation required by paragraph (b) of this section. In the event the employer's petition for a higher meal charge is denied in whole or in part, the employer may appeal such denial. Such appeals shall be filed with the Chief Administrative Law Judge. Administrative law judges shall hear such appeals according to the procedures in 29 CFR part 18, except that the appeal shall not be considered as a complaint to which an answer is required. The decision of the administrative law judge shall be the final decision of the Secretary. Each year the maximum charge allowed by this paragraph (a) will be changed by the same percentage as the twelve-month percent change for the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers for Food between December of the year just concluded and December of the year prior to that. The annual adjustments shall be effective on the date of their publication by the Director as a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. However, an employer may not impose such a charge on a worker prior to the effective date contained in the RA's written confirmation of the amount to be charged.

(b) *Required documentation.* Documentation submitted shall include the cost of goods and services directly related to the preparation and serving of meals, the number of workers fed, the number of meals served and the num-

ber of days meals were provided. The cost of the following items may be included: Food; kitchen supplies other than food, such as lunch bags and soap; labor costs which have a direct relation to food service operations, such as wages of cooks and restaurant supervisors; fuel, water, electricity, and other utilities used for the food service operation; and other costs directly related to the food service operation. Charges for transportation, depreciation, overhead and similar charges may not be included. Receipts and other cost records for a representative pay period shall be available for inspection by the RA for a period of one year.

§ 655.112 Administrative review and de novo hearing before an administrative law judge.

(a) *Administrative review*—(1) *Consideration.* Whenever an employer has requested an administrative review before an administrative law judge of a decision not to accept for consideration a temporary alien agricultural labor certification application, of the denial of a temporary alien agricultural labor certification, or of a penalty under § 655.110 of this part, the RA shall send a certified copy of the ETA case file to the Chief Administrative Law Judge by means normally assuring next-day delivery. The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall immediately assign an administrative law judge (which may be a panel of such persons designated by the Chief Administrative Law Judge from the Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals established by part 656 of this chapter, but which shall hear and decide the appeal as set forth in this section) to review the record for legal sufficiency. The administrative law judge shall not remand the case and shall not receive additional evidence.

(2) *Decision.* Within five working days after receipt of the case file the administrative law judge shall, on the basis of the written record and after due consideration of any written submissions submitted from the parties involved or *amici curiae*, either affirm, reverse, or modify the RA's denial by written decision. The decision of the administrative law judge shall specify the reasons for the action taken and shall be immediately provided to the employer, RA,

the Director, and INS by means normally assuring next-day delivery. The administrative law judge's decision shall be the final decision of the Secretary and no further review shall be given to the temporary alien agricultural labor certification application or the temporary alien agricultural labor certification determination by any DOL official.

(b) *De novo hearing*—(1) *Request for hearing; conduct of hearing.* Whenever an employer has requested a *de novo* hearing before an administrative law judge of a decision not to accept for consideration a temporary alien agricultural labor certification application, of the denial of a temporary alien agricultural labor certification, or of a penalty under § 655.110 of this part, the RA shall send a certified copy of the case file to the Chief Administrative Law Judge by means normally assuring next-day delivery. The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall immediately assign an administrative law judge (which may be a panel of such persons designated by the Chief Administrative Law Judge from the Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals established by part 656 of this chapter, but which shall hear and decide the appeal as set forth in this section) to conduct the *de novo* hearing. The procedures contained in 29 CFR part 18 shall apply to such hearings, except that:

(i) The appeal shall not be considered to be a complaint to which an answer is required,

(ii) The administrative law judge shall ensure that, at the request of the employer, the hearing is scheduled to take place within five working days after the administrative law judge's receipt of the case file, and

(iii) The administrative law judge's decision shall be rendered within ten working days after the hearing.

(2) *Decision.* After a *de novo* hearing, the administrative law judge shall either affirm, reverse, or modify the RA's determination, and the administrative law judge's decision shall be provided immediately to the employer, RA, Director, and INS by means normally assuring next-day delivery. The administrative law judge's decision shall be the final decision of the Secretary, and no further review shall be

given to the temporary alien agricultural labor certification application or the temporary alien agricultural labor certification determination by any DOL official.

[52 FR 20507, June 1, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 41876, Aug. 15, 1994]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 43544, July 13, 2000, § 655.112(a)(1) was amended by removing from the first sentence the phrase "of the denial of the temporary alien agricultural labor certification" and adding in lieu thereof the phrase "of the denial of the temporary alien agricultural labor certification, the H-2A petition, or the revocation of an H-2A petition", effective Nov. 13, 2000. The effective date was delayed until Oct. 1, 2001 at 65 FR 67628, Nov. 13, 2000.

§ 655.113 Job Service Complaint System; enforcement of work contracts.

Complaints arising under this subpart may be filed through the Job Service Complaint System, as described in 20 CFR part 658, subpart E. Complaints which involve worker contracts shall be referred by the local office to the Employment Standards Administration for appropriate handling and resolution. See 29 CFR part 501. As part of this process, the Employment Standards Administration may report the results of its investigation to ETA for consideration of employer penalties under § 655.110 of this part or such other action as may be appropriate.

§ 655.114 Revocation of H-2A petition approval.

Determinations to revoke an approved H-2A petition shall be made by the RA in accordance with accordance with the criteria established by the Immigration and Naturalization Service at 8 CFR 214.2(h).

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 43544, July 13, 2000, § 655.114 was added, effective Nov. 13, 2000. At 65 FR 67628, Nov. 13, 2000, the effective date was delayed until Oct. 1, 2001.

Subpart C—Labor Certification Process for Logging Employment and Non-H-2A Agricultural Employment

SOURCE: 43 FR 10313, Mar. 10, 1978, unless otherwise noted.